Dedham Oct. 21. 1841.

I cry your mercy, my good friend, for not having answered your pleasant letter of some three weeks— or by'r Lady inclining towards four weeks—since. I have no very sufficient excuse in the premises & so will make none—unless it be that I did not think that my metropolitan (Norfolk) annals could be much more entertaining than the platitudes of the haute noblesse of Roxbury. Small news have I to tell. I have been mainly engaged for several weeks—yea months—in carrying on the Teetotal cause in this rumsoaked town. I had at first coming hither a most hearty distaste for village agitation. Having been brought up in town I knew nothing about it & hated the very idea of it—which, to my shame be it spoken, has hindered me from doing in the A.S. cause what I ought. But the rum which was breathed in my face by almost every man I passed—& the circumstances of misery which came under my knowledge caused by this fruitful source of wretchedness—compelled me to feel that something must be done ~~& that speedily~~—& I very soon that if anything was to be done I must do it. I accordingly, much against my will, set about it & have now got so thoroughly in the vein that I feel as if I could set the whole County by the ears with great satisfaction of mind. We have done well for the place. More than 450 have signed the pledge—many of them drinking men, some hard drinkers— and a considerable change appears in the aspect of the town in this regard. In the course of my operations I carried the war into the school districts. In one of these called Poverty Street—from the poverty which Rum has caused—I delivered a lecture in the Schoolhouse which so offended the people that they would not let me have it the next Sunday - so I held meetings in the open air two successive Sundays in the midst of the drunkards - which were largely attended. Dr. Burgess who lives in that neighborhood, & who has not favored my movement at all, communicated the refusal of the people, with an assurance that "he had personally no objection &c." Well; the next Sunday I wished to have a lecture in a small manufacturing neighborhood, called the Mill Village, in which the Dr. has a chapel all his *owny downy*, built with his own money & which he has not thought expedient to give to the Lord. In the innocence of my heart, & not as yet knowing the composition of a priest, I applied for leave to use it, in the fullest expectation of assent - but from that day to this I have never rec^d an answer to my request - though I ascertained the fact of his having rec^d it! So we had to hold our meeting in a little hole - to which the Blackhole at Calcutta was a well-ventilated ice house - which was crammed to its utmost capacity & yet many could not obtain admission. This was coming it rather too strong even for the Dr's friends to stand quietly - so a considerable excitement arose - & ~~the~~ he began to think that he had committed worse than a crime - a mistake. So I was waited upon by two of his parishioners who gave me to understand that I might have the Chapel if I would engage to have no one speak in it who had not been reformed long enough to make his reformation probable. Which condition as you may suppose I promptly declined acceding to - feeling under no obligation to assist the Dr. out of his false position by complying with such a *fetch*. So we were driven to our hole again. The Dr. however has been forced to utter a word he has hated almost as much as Immediate Emancipation - viz - Total Abstinence - for last Sunday he procured young Shepard to lecture in his Chapel on that very thing so soon - though he did not come through some blunder. Mr. Pierpont gave us an admirable lecture last week to a very full house.

The other night my wife went to a party at one of our "first families" O.F.M. — and there was no wine on the supper table, for the first time since the memory of man — & it was laid by the hostess to Mr. P. So much for Temperance.

The night of the great storm we had arranged for a lecture from Douglaſs but the weather prevented. He spent a day & a half with me & produced a very favorable impreſsion on all of us by his modesty & intelligence. Last Saturday he appeared again without previous notice — but by painstaking & the big handbills, I contrived to notify it so well as to get the Townhouse crammed full — & as far as I can learn an excellent impreſsion was produced. wh. I wish to have followed up & have written to Wendell to come Sunday after next to do the same. So if you see him stir him up with a long pole. Some of the people were amazed that a nigger could talk so well — Mr. Foord said that I had written his lecture for him — most were startled at his audacity at calling my excellency Brother Quincy — but they all liked him. I had, too, a rather unusual opportunity of bearing the Social testimony against prejudice. We had a friend of Mrs. Q.'s staying with us — formerly a slaveholder in So. Carolina — the wife of Mr. Vaughan, editor of the Cincinnati Republican who took so manly a stand at the time of the Mob. I did not think it neceſsary to make so much of her visit unpleasant as to have him the whole of Sunday with us — so I quartered him on the Meſsengers — but I invited him to tea on Sunday afternoon. She behaved with great good sense & good breeding — & declared that it was not so bad as it sounded.

Tuesday night Garrison came out & spent the night with me & the next morning I drove him & Mrs Spear & Miss Meſsenger to Wrentham to our Quarterly meeting. When we entered our wagon we congratulated ourselves on the beauty of the day — but before we had got to the meetinghouse "Garrison," said I, "is that a drop of rain?" "I don't see any" says he, but as we went down it came & poured the whole way. When we arrived the M. H. was open & Garrison went up to see if every-thing was O.K. He reported favorably — but said that there were three men in the pulpit praying - which we attributed to the unusual piety of Old Oxfd. & thought no more about it. They went in & I went to put up the horse. On returning to the M. H. I was ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ providentially informed that the Mendon Aſsociation was holding a seſsion in the body of the house - while we were relegated to the vestry. This timely information saved the religious world from a world of woe - for had I not received it, I should probably have marched up to the pulpit - elbowed aside the reverend occupants - & called the meeting to order. Notwithstanding the storm we had a very good meeting indeed - it would have been crowded, if fair. The speaking was excellent. The principal topic was the incompatibility of Slaveholding or apologizing &c with Xty. Collins marred a good speech by one of those ~~unfortunate~~ violations of good taste of which he is sometimes guilty. He ~~[illegible]~~ closed an impassioned speech on this subject, somewhat to this effect - "Prove to me ~~that~~ Xty sanctions Slavery & its abominations & I wash my hands of it for ever! It is a Religion which I repudiate! Show me that Xty is compatible with Murder, Robbery &c - in one word - with Slavery - & I tell you, my names Walker - I'm off!" We had, too, one of the reformed drunkards from Walpole - two months from the gutter who has entered into the cause with much zeal - and I expect we shall get a good deal of help from that quarter. He made ~~a~~ several spirited speeches & in the course of one of these he informed us - either not having entirely forgotten his barroom dialect, or, peradventure, having heard of the example of the late Lord High Treasurer of the Maſs. Soc. - 'that Slavery ~~was~~ is the cuſsedest thing ever was' - which he repeated with added emphasis - "the very expedient system that ever was." In the evening Garrison & Douglass lectured to quite a full house. I staid last night at Abner Belchers - an old fashioned farmhouse - full of domestic comforts & plain hospitality - a refreshing picture to look upon. Today I brought back my two ladies - leaving G. to return by R. Road. On Sunday I go to Canton to deliver the first A. S. lecture ever heard there. The young man who engaged me seemed full of zeal - though in a sense, it must be owned without knowledge. In perfect innocence he asked me "which I thought the best Old or New organization?" I believe we shall find a new field in many towns which have never yet been touched, which will repay our labors. Our women here are working well for the Fair. I wish I could think of something to write for the Liberty Bell.

I trust I shall see you at some intervals of the Infidel Convention next week. It is long since I have seen any of you. Love to all. And pray never destroy letters which you have written me because there is nothing in them. ~~How can you write so~~ you know ~~that~~ all that all that sort of talk ~~in yours~~ belongs to ~~that~~ the part of rhetoric called Gammon. I am in as destitute a condition, epistolically, as you can be - so pray write me often - why not once a week or fortnight.

Farewell. Truly yours

Edmund Quincy.

Has the North nothing to do with a system of negro slavery which is corrupting the morals, and wasting the strength, and blasting the character of the whole nation?

Oct 21st 1841
Temperance & A. Slavery
meetings.

Caroline Weston.
at Mr. Chapmans.
Chauncey Place.

Ms. A.9.2.15.82